ONE VOICE MIXED CHORUS
MINNESOTA'S LGBTA

DARK NIGHT STAR BRIGHT

EXPLORING THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF CHANGE AND BRIGHT NEW BEGINNINGS

Jan. 20, 2024 7:30pm
Jan. 21, 2024 2:00pm

The Cowles Center Goodale Theater
528 Hennepin, Ave. Minneapolis, MN

All Performances Jan.21 only

Large Print

KIMBERLY WAIGWA *Artistic Director*
PAUL KOVACOVIC *Accompanist*

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE BY RAISING OUR VOICES IN SONG.

WELCOME

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Change comes for us all, and what an adventure 2023 has been. From one moment to the next, a new world. From this weekend on, a new One Voice. It has been an absolute joy and invigorating challenge to lead this amazing group of humans, all of us getting to know each other, feel each other out, and work towards navigating our path forward.

Dark Night Star Bright is about this process - the uncertainty, the fear, and the excitement of new that we've experienced in the turbulent landscape of post 2020 living. I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my person and artistry with such open and invested folks, and, equally, I'm grateful for their trust in me. Come with us on this journey to bravely explore the unknown together: working, hoping, and dreaming of the light and future we will build together.

– **Kimberly Waigwa,** Artistic Director

"I know not where the white road runs, nor what the blue hills are;
But a man can have the sun for a friend, and for his guide a star"

Wander-Thirst, **Gerald Gould**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us for Dark Night, Star Bright. We're glad you're here to journey through topics of change, uncertainty, resilience, and community with us. I mean this in more ways than one. The themes explored in today's concert are the same ones we are navigating as an organization off stage too.

We are taking more time and intention to reflect on everything from music to mission as a chorus and as leaders.

Guided by our new Artistic Director Waigwa, we are entering a period of strategic planning and visioning around how to expand and achieve new goals. And we are looking for new voices to enhance those important conversations. We are seeking people committed to One Voice's mission and values–and a willingness to interrogate them.

If you are interested in joining a new board and shaping a promising next chapter for One Voice, contact me at executivedirector@onevoicemn.org.

Enjoy the show!

– **Mitch Fantin,** Executive Director

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are singing and creating community together on the sacred traditional lands of the Dakota and Ojibwe people. It is an honor to live, work, and create art and music alongside Dakota, Ojibwe and other Indigenous peoples in the Twin Cities.

Please consider donating to the local Indigenous organizations listed on page 12 of this program.

One Voice Mixed Chorus – Minnesota's LGBTQA chorus and one of the largest LGBTQA mixed choruses in the country – is known for its musical excellence, unique programming and a strong commitment to community outreach. One Voice's 125 singing members span the ages of 16 to 85, and are accompanied by a large "Fifth Section" of non-singing volunteers. Together, they dedicate their energy and voices to the One Voice mission: "Building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song." Along with the a capella ensemble OVation, One Voice has performed for thousands of people in the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota and beyond, bringing messages of hope, inclusiveness and equality to communities outside the Twin Cities area where LGBTQA resources are often hard to find. For almost 35 years their community engagement and education programs have inspired transformation through passionate, vibrant, and creative performances at concerts, during community engagement tours and with the pioneering OUT in Our Schools program. One Voice is described by Chorus America as "one of the region's best ensembles."

OVation is the portable version of One Voice–an a cappella ensemble that brings One Voice's music and message almost anywhere. Since its founding in 2000, OVation has presented over 350 performances, reaching over 30,000 people in dozens of Minnesota communities, at choral festivals from coast to coast, and internationally in Canada and Ireland. OVation performs at 20-25 community engagement events annually, in venues that have included the Minnesota State Fair, the Northern Spark Festival, the Minnesota Arboretum, TwinsFest, Pride festivals, places of worship, and in partnership with community organizations. To book OVation for your event, sacred service, business, wedding, coming-out party, or birthday bash, visit www.OneVoiceMN.org/BookUs.

CONCERT PROGRAM

ACT I

Stars
Words and music by Kyle Pederson
Read by Britt Abel

The Language of Stars
Words by Martha Lavinia Hoffman
Music by Katerina Gimon

Wander-Thirst
Words by Gerald Gould, Music by Florence Price

Dead Mouse
Poetry by KateLynn Hibbard

I Honour the Place in You
Music by Sarah McMahill
Words are a translation of Namasté, a Sanskrit greeting

Shine
Words and music by Gary Barlow, Howard Donald, Mark Owen, Stephen Robson, and Jason Orange
Arr. by Philip Lawson

Estrela É Lua Nova
Traditional from Brazil, Arr. Heitor Villa-Lobos
Adapted and edited by Cristian Grases
Solo: Kerry Green

PROGRAM NOTES

CONCERT LYRICS

ACT II

Fa Shu Ha (Under That Flower Tree)
Music by Ya-Shan Tsai, Words by Siou-ru Gu (Mandarin, Taiwanese)
Solo: Wendy Wilflower

¡Ayúdame!
Words and music by Carlos Cordero
Percussionist: Megan Perera

When I Rise
Words by Wendell Berry, Music originally by Wendy Tuck
Solo: Sherry Kruzcek

Veni, sancte spiritus
Music by Zanaida Robles

ACT III

Shooting Star
Music and words by Cris Williamson
Arr. by The Flirtations

Take Me Home
Words and Music by Kevin Olusola, Kirstin Maldonado, & Audra Mae
Arr. by Roger Emerson

Monarch
Words and music by Matt Alber
Arr. by Ash

How Our Baby Spider Plant Survived
Poetry by Mark Todd

Lean On Me (We Shall Overcome)
Words and music by Bill Withers
Arr. by Mark Hayes

Will The Circle Be Unbroken?
Words and music by Peter Gabriel
Arr. by Paul Rardin
Soloists: Devin Dolquist, Kelsey Chellsen, MacKenzie O'Kane

I Lived
One Republic, arr. Jacob Narverud
Solo: Vince Mokarzel

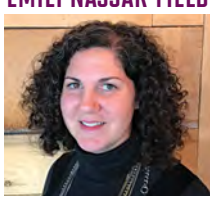
ARTISTIC STAFF

KIMBERLY WAIGWA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kimberly Waigwa is a thinker of thoughts, meower or tunes, and an educator dedicated to intentional music making, focused on the intersections of racial justice, queer advocacy, and community building. Waigwa has served as a facilitator and clinician for the choral department at Temple University, the Choir School of Delaware, as well as within their roles as artistic director with the Phoenix Women's Chorus and Desert Voices Mixed Chorus. As a conductor, Waigwa has taught undergraduate conducting and been selected by audition for the National American Choral Directors Association's Conference Masterclass both as an undergraduate student and graduate student. Waigwa received their masters of music in Choral Conducting at Temple University, and when they aren't waving their arms, sings with Elevation, the flagship professional performing ensemble of Elevate Vocal Arts.

EMILY NAJJAR-FIELD



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Emily's music career began at age 6 when she joined the Children's Choir at Nativity of Mary Church in Bloomington, and for over 30 years she continued to study and teach choral and instrumental music. After earning a Bachelor's in Music from Gustavus Adolphus College, Emily worked with students of all ages as a freelance piano teacher, community theatre vocal director, conductor for youth and adult ensembles. Emily returned to school earning a Music Education degree from UMN and currently teaches 6-12 Music at Community of Peace Academy in Saint Paul.

PAUL KOVACOVIC

ACCOMPANIST

Paul Kovacovic (he/him) has been the guest soloist with several orchestras, as well as the accompanist for artists such as singer-songwriter Ann Reed and Las Vegas entertainer and television host Tony Sandler. Kovacovic has won first prizes in the Thursday Musical, Schubert Club, and Indiana University Piano Concerto Competitions. Paul loves to teach and compose as well as perform. His piece Variations Catastrophiques won the Eric Stokes Song Contest and was performed by the new music ensemble Zeitgeist. Other performed compositions include Legend (violin concerto), Through the Darkness (piano concerto), To Earth and Back (symphony), and Our Voice of Truth (chorus).

GARY RUSCHMAN

OVATION MUSIC DIRECTOR

Gary Ruschman (he/him) is an in-demand conductor, performer, and composer who works in a broad range of musical traditions. In addition to his work with OVation Gary leads the vocal and choral programs at North Hennepin Community College and St. Timothy Lutheran Church of St. Paul, and also serves as music director for Mixed Precipitation's critically-acclaimed Pickup Truck Opera. Gary's scores have been presented by BBC Two, C-SPAN, Minnesota Opera, Madison Square Garden, and the Center for Interfaith Relations. A Chorus America Education and Community Outreach Award recipient and American Composers Forum grantee, he earned music degrees with honors from Northern Kentucky University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Called "terrific" by Mpls.St.Paul Magazine, his performing career spans opera, concert, ensemble, and film, including forty stage roles and appearances with the Boston Pops, Kennedy Center, Festival Musique en l'Île de Paris, Birdland, American Bach Soloists, and NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts. Gary's discography includes a dozen recordings with Cantus, alt-rock and classical discs, and three solo albums.

ONE VOICE PERSONNEL

Executive Director	Mitch Fantin
Operations Manager	Casey Illig
Office Assistant	Jen Rivera
Grant Writer	Mara Winke
Graphic Designer	Tony Horning
Photographer	Louis Zurn
OVation	Anni Bowers, Zoja Anthony Chmielarczyk, Catherine Dalton, Shelley des Islets, Erika Grossman, Rossianne Jaffe-Garber, Marg Nelson, Katy Nordhagen, Dean Olson, Megan Perera, Seralina Powers, Claire Psarouthakis, Andy Tweeten
Guitar	Gary Ruschman
Percussion	Megan Perera
ASL Interpreter	Gilda Houck-Markovitz
Stage Manager	Anna Schultz
Lighting Design	Patricia H. Goodson

ONE VOICE MEMBERS

♪ Section Music Leader
* OVation Ensemble
+ Membership Committee Rep

SOPRANO

Britt Abel
Martha Bentley
Anni Bowers *
Melissa Cuddy
Catherine Dalton *♪
Jessica Erickson
Stefanie Foreman
Gillian Gauntt
Kerry Green
Callie Hensler
Cheryl Ann Hornstein
Vicki Janisch-Tri
Darcy Juhl +
Cece Klueh
Wendy Martin
Sarah McMahill
Steph Pederson
Seralina Powers
Kat Schwartz
Kaiti Shelton
Becka Thraen
Elizabeth Vaught
Wendy Wiflower

ALTO

Jessica Axmacher
Sharon Barnd
Erin Bontrager +
Kelsey Chellsen
Sher Demeter
Shelley des Islets
Rachel Everett
Cathy Geist
Jennifer Heaton
Sarah Henderson
KateLynn Hibbard
Megan Kelly
Sherry Kruzcek
Lynne Larsen
Liz McClear
Marley Frances Moon
Karen Muleski
Emily Najjar-Field ♪
Marg Nelson *
Ham Paulson
Megan Perera
Claire Psarouthakis *
Lisette Schlosser
Rachel Sher
Antoinette Stookey
Israela Stookey
Shelley Thron
Arie von Gottfried

TENOR

Elliott Barnhill
Sarah Bizek
Zoja Anthony Chmielarczyk*
Michael Dodson
Branden Eldred
Luke Gagnon
Brian Geving
Erika Grossman *
Marz Kirchoff
Benjamin Lamb
Kenny Niemeyer
Collin O'Brien ♪ +
MacKenzie O'Kane
Joshua Peterson
Shari Pleiss
Jen Rivera
Wayne Schneider
Mark Todd
Barrett Vann
Elliot Vigue
Colleen Watson
Austin Wiebe

BASS

John Bagniewski
Emily Boyajtian
Scott Burglechner
Devin Dolquist ♪
Andrew Eldred
Bree Foster
James Gottfried
Adrian Hegeman
Allan Henden
Rossianne Jaffe-Garber*
Dave Jerde
Evan Johnson
Andy Kedl
Ehren Kluge
Noah Kuklinski
Andrew Martin
Dave McMahill
Vincent Mokarzel
Dean Olson *
Logan Olson
Jesse Pollock-Foote♪
John Siracusa
Lane Skalberg
Andy Tweeten * +
Nick Van Sickle
Daniel Wassim
Andrew Winfield

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Earl Moore	Board Chair
(open position)	Vice Chair
Kenny Niemeyer	Treasurer
Liz Vaught	Secretary
Mary Pat Byrn	Member At-large
Dean Olson	Member At-large
Katy Nordhagen	Member At-large

One Voice is seeking new board members with skills in the areas of investment, finance, and governance.
If you are interested in considering board service, contact Executive Director, Mitch Fantin – executivedirector@onevoicemn.org

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

We are fortunate to have many dedicated individuals who generously volunteer their time and skills in service to One Voice. Many thanks to each member of our board of directors and the following chorus committee chairs:

DEVELOPMENT – Katy Nordhagen

FINANCE – Dan Levett

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE – Earl Moore

MEMBERSHIP – Andy Tweeten

MUSIC – Kimberly Waigwa

PERSONNEL – Earl Moore

PRODUCTION – Joel Krause and Anna Shultz

UPCOMING EVENTS

ART of JOY

Saturday, June 22 & Sunday, June 23
The Ordway Performing Arts Center
More info coming soon!

GALA Festival 2024

July 8th - 13th
More info at galachoruses.org

How Did We Sound?

Your opinion is important to us! We invite you to take less than 5 minutes to submit a post-concert survey:

SCAN TO SUBMIT
CONCERT SURVEY

The information shared will help us improve our concert-going experience, and knowing the identity of our audience helps us understand how we are reaching the communities we want to serve. Thank you!

Wingspan Life Resources offers

Rainbow Support Group

for LGBTQ adults with Developmental Disabilities.

We provide education, resources, peer support & monthly activities. Now seeking guest speakers and volunteers.

Membership is free.

Contact Deb Hofbauer, Program Director
dhofbauer@wingspanlife.org or 651-353-7747

Kyla Sisson, Outreach Coordinator
ksisson@wingspanlife.org

Darolyn Gray, Development Officer
dgray@wingspanlife.org

wingspan

wingspanlife.org

UNITY CHURCH–
UNITARIAN

integrity · service · joy

An inclusive religious community
that encourages lives of
integrity, service, and joy.

In all we do, we strive to embody:
Wonder
Open-hearted engagement
Courageous action

651-228-1456
unity@unityunitarian.org
733 Portland Ave. • St Paul, MN 55104

viitala byrn
& ives law office

www.vbilaw.com 612-305-2959

Practice Areas: Employment Law, Estate Planning and Probate,
Advising Businesses and Non-Profits, Family Law, General Civil Legal Matters

Please consider donating to the following Indigenous organizations our singers actively advocate for:

Indigenous Peoples Task Force

indigenouspeoplestf.org

The Indigenous Peoples Task Force strengthens the wellness of our community in a way that is based in indigenous values and ways of knowing. Our comprehensive approach defies categorization and programs include housing and case management for those with HIV, using theater and visual arts to support our youth, connecting people to traditional medicines, and sponsoring Nibi (water) walks. Help us achieve our goal of building an urban sanctuary by donating at https://www.givemn.org/story/Rememberourteachings.

Native Governance Center

nativegov.org

Native Governance Center is a Native-led nonprofit dedicated to assisting Native nations in strengthening their governance systems and capacity to exercise sovereignty. Native nations with stronger governance systems are better able to use their sovereignty to determine their own future and improve their quality of life. To further the movement, our organization provides Native nations with customized resources, learning experiences, and technical assistance related to Indigenous governance. We also train Indigenous changemakers through our Native Nation Rebuilders program, a program founded on Indigenous values and real-life leadership and governance success stories.

Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi

wakantipi.org

We engage people to honor and care for our natural places, the sacred sites, and cultural value within them. Our program areas are Urban Conservation and Restoration, Cultural Connections and Healing, and Environmental Education. These projects include our bird walks events, Gifts of the Plant Nation Webinars, Summer Indigenous Youth Program, and daylighting Lower Phalen Creek.

NATIFS

NATIFS.org

NATIFS works to cultivate the seeds of Indigenous heritage, nourish our people, and honor the land that sustains us. Our vision is to rekindle and empower Indigenous food sovereignty through a thriving network of regional hubs that celebrate and elevate Indigenous culinary traditions. With a deep commitment to healing, cultural reconnection, and economic empowerment, NATIFS envisions a future where every tribal community across the nation reclaims its food heritage, fosters sustainable local economies, and nurtures the overall well-being of its people.